



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** September 21, 2021

## **COVID-19 VACCINATION WILL BE REQUIRED FOR DC STUDENT-ATHLETES BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The District of Columbia State Athletic Association, following this week’s announcement by Mayor Bowser, will require student-athletes at all DCSAA member schools be vaccinated for COVID-19 in order to participate in school-based extracurricular athletics, including interscholastic and intramural sports.

COVID-19 vaccination also will be required for athletes to participate in out-of-season practices and workouts. Additionally, anyone participating in athletics at a DCSAA member school venue must be vaccinated for COVID-19.

These changes take effect November 1 and pertain to the ongoing fall sports season as well as the upcoming winter sports season and beyond.

“DCSAA issued preseason guidance for the fall sports season and has continued to monitor the situation in order to ensure student-athlete safety, noting that there could be changes,” DCSAA Executive Director Kenny Owens said. “DCSAA supports Mayor Bowser’s decision to require all student-athletes be vaccinated and will work with membership to continue providing a safe environment for students to participate in athletics.”

DCSAA continues to require all student-athletes wear masks while participating in indoor sports and activities. DCSAA recommends following the DC Health policy of maintaining physical distance of at least six feet as much as possible when participating in higher-risk activities indoors.

“Safety remains the top priority,” Owens said. “DCSAA thanks Mayor Bowser and her staff for their leadership and is appreciative of the guidance from DC Health. We all share the goal of maintaining students’ ability to participate in athletics while remaining safe.”

To learn more about the District of Columbia State Athletic Association, please visit [www.dcsaasports.org](http://www.dcsaasports.org).

**CONTACT:** Josh Barr, [josh.barr@dc.gov](mailto:josh.barr@dc.gov)

### **About the District of Columbia State Athletic Association**

The District of Columbia State Athletic Association has served District of Columbia public schools, public charter schools, and independent private and parochial schools since 2012. Studies regularly show that students who participate in extracurricular activities generally are better prepared to succeed beyond high school and under DCSAA guidance, student-athlete participation has risen 44 percent. DCSAA empowers its members.